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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

June 16, 2003

BY FACSIMILE  
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto  
Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

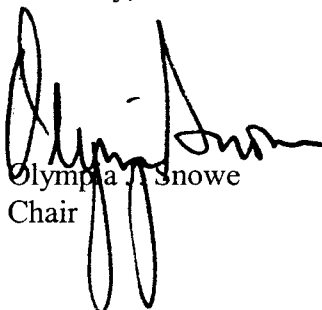
Dear Administrator Barreto:

Several small businesses have brought to my attention that the comment period on the Small Business Administration's (SBA) proposed rule that would amend Federal regulations to require small businesses to re-certify their size status annually is fairly short. As you know, the comment period on the proposed rule, published in the Federal Register on April 25, 2003, is through June 24, 2003. (See 68 Fed. Reg. 20350).

Given the complexity of the issues surrounding the rule, I request that the SBA grant a 90-day extension on the comment period so that small businesses have an opportunity to research the issue thoroughly and submit appropriate comments. In light of the potential impact of the proposed rule, a 90-day extension on the comment period would allow small businesses to assess the issues and provide SBA with constructive feedback. This is an opportunity for the SBA, procuring agencies and small businesses to identify a workable solution to the recertification issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know or have your staff contact Nancyellen Gentile on the Small Business Committee at (202) 224-5175.

Sincerely,



Olympia J. Snowe  
Chair

cc: Angela Styles, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy  
Linda Williams, Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting, SBA